

Issue NE-CW2103, released May 27, 2003, by the Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA . For more information contact us at: 100 Centennial Mall North, Suite 298, Lincoln, NE 68508, 402-437-5541, e-mail at [nass-ne@nass.usda.gov](mailto:nass-ne@nass.usda.gov), Internet at <http://www.usda.gov/nass/>.

**Agricultural Summary:** For the week ending May 25, 2003, spring planting progressed well in spite of cool, damp conditions, according to USDA’s Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service. Crop development continued to be slowed by below normal temperatures.

This release is based on reports and data from FSA county directors, county extension educators, NOAA, and the High Plains Climate Center. Current county specific comments plus current and historic PDF files of Weather and Crop reports can be found at: [http://www.nass.usda.gov/ne/cropwthr/cmts\\_cur.htm](http://www.nass.usda.gov/ne/cropwthr/cmts_cur.htm)

**Weather Summary:** Temperatures generally ranged from four to nine degrees below normals for the week. Precipitation was statewide with heaviest amounts of over two inches reported in portions of South Central and Southeastern districts. Since April 1, all crop reporting districts have averaged above normal precipitation.

**Field Crops Report:** Corn planting moved ahead last week to 91 percent complete. Another week of drying weather allowed producers to continue last week’s pace and remain slightly less than a week behind last year at 96 percent and average at 97. Fifty-four percent of the fields had emerged, compared with 68 last year and 76 average.

Soybean planting also made good progress with 45 percent complete. This is also near one week behind the 68

percent last year and 70 average. Eleven percent of the fields had emerged, compared with 23 last year and 32 average.

Sorghum planting was active with 17 percent of the acreage seeded. This is behind the 41 percent last year and 49 average.

Wheat condition continued to show improvement and rated 8 percent poor, 25 fair, 49 good, and 18 excellent, above last year and the 5 year average. Wheat fields were 34 percent headed statewide, near 33 percent last year but behind 45 average.

Oat condition rated 1 percent poor, 12 fair, 65 good, and 22 excellent. The crop was 3 percent headed to date. This compares with 3 percent last year and 1 average.

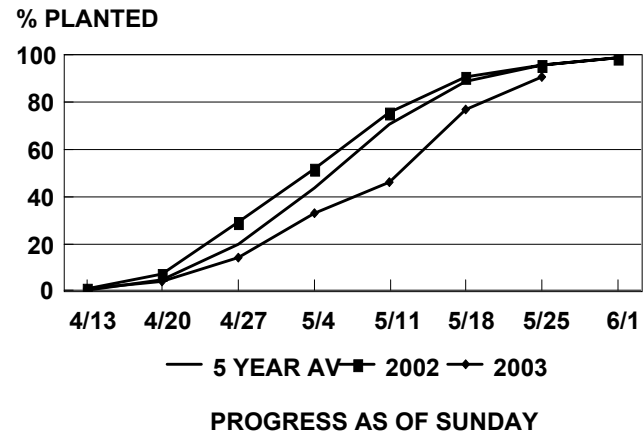
Alfalfa conditions rated 1 percent very poor, 3 poor, 19 fair, 50 good, and 27 excellent. First cutting activities were 12 percent complete. This compares with 10 percent last year and 18 average.

**Livestock, Pasture and Range Report:** Pasture and range condition rated 6 percent very poor, 19 poor, 36 fair, 32 good, and 7 excellent. Pastures continue to recover from the drought and are currently exceeding the condition of a year ago but remain below average. Large numbers of grasshoppers were being reported in parts of central Nebraska.

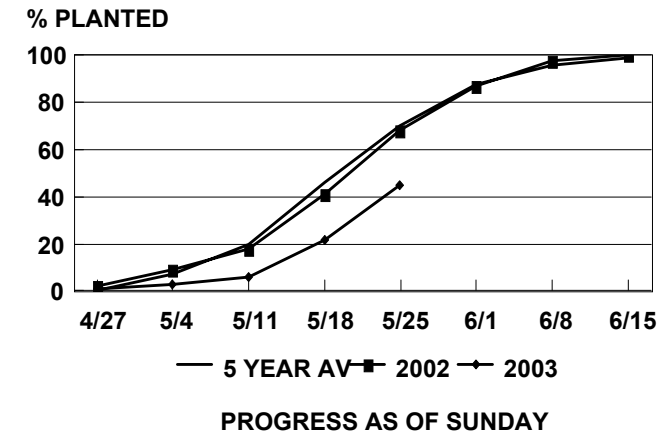
Progress and Conditions: By District, Nebraska, as of May 25, 2003													
Item		Agricultural Statistics Districts							State	Last Week	Last Year	Average	
		NW	NC	NE	C	EC	SW	SC					SE
% Corn Planted		83	90	92	90	92	87	95	93	91	77	96	97
% Corn Emerged		39	41	46	48	57	46	64	72	54	31	68	76
% Soybeans Planted		1	56	35	37	43	40	70	49	45	22	68	70
% Soybeans Emerged		1	5	4	8	13	4	22	16	11	3	23	32
% Sorghum Planted		0	21	12	20	19	15	30	18	17	8	41	49
% Sorghum Emerged		0	3	7	0	4	1	1	5	3	1	8	17
% Wheat Headed		1	47	66	53	40	51	54	59	34	10	33	45
% Oats Headed		0	5	1	1	9	4	13	6	3	0	3	1
% Alfalfa 1 <sup>st</sup> Cutting		4	7	8	10	20	10	15	29	12	3	10	18
Days Suitable for Fieldwork		5.1	5.0	4.7	4.9	4.5	5.6	3.9	3.8	4.7	4.3	5.4	5.0
Topsoil Moisture	- % Very short	0	1	0	0	0	3	0	0	1	1	22	9
	- % Short	14	3	2	0	1	18	1	4	6	5	23	19
	- % Adequate	85	96	94	86	82	76	85	93	88	85	50	63
	- % Surplus	1	0	4	14	17	3	14	3	5	9	5	9
Subsoil Moisture	- % Very Short	9	7	1	5	5	28	3	14	10	12	26	14
	- % Short	47	19	28	34	34	40	37	47	34	33	38	22
	- % Adequate	44	74	70	59	60	32	60	38	56	53	35	60
	- % Surplus	0	0	1	2	1	0	0	1	0	2	1	4

<sup>1</sup> Data unavailable.

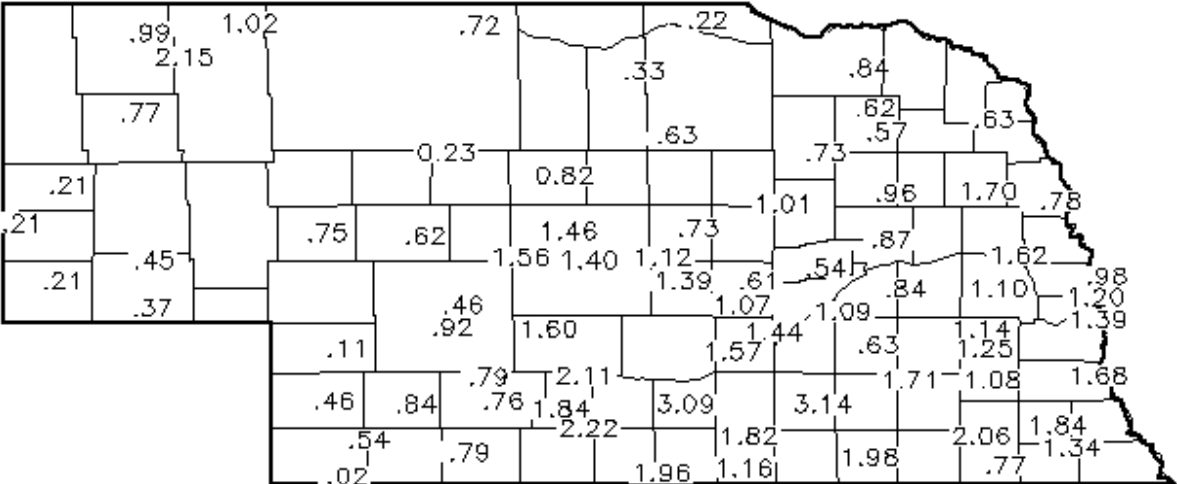
CORN



SOYBEANS



Precipitation in Inches for Week Ending May 25, 2003



Precipitation: By District, Nebraska, April 1 - May 25, 2003

Item	NW	NC	NE	CEN	EC	SW	SC	SE
Total past week	.46	.54	.79	1.22	1.19	.71	2.19	1.69
Total since April 1	4.49	6.37	7.49	8.13	7.66	6.81	7.43	7.60
Normal since April 1	4.19	4.73	5.58	5.34	6.00	4.55	5.16	6.05
Total as % of normal	106%	135%	133%	152%	127%	149%	144%	126%

Source: High Plains Climate Center data as of 8:00 a.m.

Temperature and Growing Degree Days: By Location, Nebraska,  
Week Ending Sunday, May 25, 2003

Station		Temperature				Growing Degree Days Since April 15		
		Extremes		Average	Departure	Last Week	Current	Normal
		High	Low					
NW	Alliance	74	28	54	-4	62	266	339
	Scottsbluff	81	28	58	0	85	344	339
	Sidney	73	30	55	-4	63	278	348
NC	Ainsworth	72	30	56	-5	63	289	369
	Arthur	75	30	55	-6	60	267	366
	O'Neill	72	34	56	-7	60	274	385
NE	Concord	69	37	55	-8	54	296	390
	Elgin	70	36	56	-7	60	287	394
	West Point	72	36	55	-9	55	311	414
C	Grand Island	73	39	58	-6	67	333	402
	Lexington	74	38	58	-4	71	344	398
	Ord	73	35	57	-6	64	316	397
EC	Lincoln	74	37	57	-8	67	384	436
	Central City	73	41	58	-6	68	350	406
	Mead	73	36	57	-9	64	361	430
SW	Champion	77	29	57	-4	71	320	378
	North Platte	74	31	56	-5	69	331	380
	Curtis	76	33	58	-4	75	359	387
SC	Arapahoe	76	29	54	-6	62	285	363
	Minden	73	40	58	-5	68	348	399
	Red Cloud	74	39	57	-6	65	364	407
SE	Beatrice	74	40	58	-8	69	400	436
	Clay Center	71	39	56	-7	63	337	405
	Nemaha	75	43	59	-7	71	420	470

Source: High Plains Climate Center.